

Job Description

We seek a physical therapist for a full-time **clinical gait/research specialist** to join our staff in the Pathokinesiology Laboratory of Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey, California. The Pathokinesiology Laboratory was founded in 1968 by pioneering orthopedic surgeon, Jacquelin Perry, MD to investigate human movement by measuring the biomechanics, muscle function, and energy requirements of walking and mobility activities. The overriding goal of the lab's clinical and research programs is to improve patient outcomes and clinical care for individuals with movement disorders including, but not limited to: stroke, spinal cord injury, brain injury, orthopedic disabilities, cerebral palsy, diabetes, and lower limb loss.

This individual will express a strong passion for gait analysis and desire to conduct clinical research aimed at improving function for patients with neurologic and orthopedic disorders. The ideal candidate will have expert knowledge in assessing gait impairments and have the ability to use evidence-based practice for assessment and intervention in a variety of patient populations. Additionally, a strong background in the evaluation and recommendation of orthotics is preferred. In addition to clinical expertise, this person will also have a desire to obtain proficiency in using instrumented gait analysis as well as other techniques used in performing clinical research, but is not expected to have these skills initially. This position also has a focus on clinical collaboration as well as knowledge translation within the organization and externally to professional and scientific communities.

Responsibilities

Under the direction of the Director of the Pathokinesiology Laboratory, the **clinical gait/research specialist** is responsible for conducting gait and clinical research studies including: physical therapy evaluations, instrumented gait analysis and clinical research assessments and interventions. As part of our existing clinical service, this individual is responsible for performing components of computerized gait analysis assessments include clinical examination, application of skin markers and electromyography

electrodes (surface and indwelling fine-wire), biomechanical and physiological data collection, computer processing and interpretation of data and drafting preliminary gait analysis reports. This individual also participates in gait evaluation review meetings along with the lab director and orthopedic surgeon to review the preliminary report in conjunction with the patient's clinical and gait laboratory data and generate clinical recommendations for the patient. The position is also responsible for finalizing the report and ensuring that it is uploaded into the medical record system.

The individual in this position will also actively participate in ongoing research activities. Responsibilities include recruiting and obtaining informed consent from participants as well as testing interventions, performing assessments, data entry and statistical analysis, preparing manuscripts, and giving oral presentations at scientific meetings.

Qualifications

Expertise in physical therapy assessment and treatment of patients with neurological and orthopedic disorders, particularly evaluation of muscle tone, range of motion, muscle strength, observational gait analysis, posture, functional ability, and motor control.- REQUIRED

Willingness to learn procedures for biomechanical instrumented analysis of movement including motion analysis system, electromyography (including insertion technique for fine-wire, indwelling electrodes), force plates, energy consumption system, isometric dynamometry, and related computers and computer programs.- REQUIRED

Knowledge of mobility devices, including lower extremity orthoses.
REQUIRED

Skill in communicating clearly and professionally using proper grammar in written and verbal format. Ability to record data accurately. Ability to communicate clearly with patients, families, researchers, clinicians and support staff. - REQUIRED

Knowledge of normal and abnormal gait kinematics and muscle firing patterns. -
REQUIRED

Ability to work well within a multidisciplinary team environment. Interpersonal skills to develop and maintain cooperative working relationships with patients and their family/caregivers, staff, other professionals at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and in the community. - REQUIRED

Graduate of accredited physical therapy program. Minimum of BS degree in physical therapy. – REQUIRED

Physical therapist license in the State of California (or in progress). – REQUIRED

Minimum 2 years of clinical experience as a physical therapist. – REQUIRED (Three – 5 years RECOMMENDED)

Facility with Microsoft Office programs including Word, Excel, Power Point, and Adobe Illustrator – RECOMMENDED

Familiarity/experience with scientific writing, research design, and statistical analysis – RECOMMENDED

The person who fills this position will be an employee of Rancho Research Institute (RRI). Established in 1956, RRI is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that administers research and educational programs at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. The mission of RRI is to conduct innovative research and education to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities. Our vision is to be a world class leader in clinical research transforming disability to ability.

RRI is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or protected Veteran status.

RRI provides full benefits including:

Medical

Dental

Vision

401K, with 3% contribution from RRI

Life AD&D

Vacation

Sick leave (that will be paid out if unused by the end of the year)

With 2 floating holidays

All Federal holidays Observed and paid

Application Instructions: Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and current curriculum vitae that includes contact information (phone number and email) and names and contact information for three references. Written letters will be requested at a later time. Applicants will be notified prior to contacting references. Please send application materials to Sara Mulroy, PhD, PT at smulroy@dhs.lacounty.gov. Applications received by September 1st, 2021 will be given first consideration, but the review process will continue until the position is filled. For additional information, please contact Sara Mulroy, PhD, PT at smulroy@dhs.lacounty.gov.